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STAFF NOTES:

Soviet Union Eastern Europe

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SOVIET UNION - EASTERN EUROPE

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Romanian-Warsaw Pact Relations

Romania's determination to resist Soviet pressure for closer military cooperation within the Warsaw Pact has evidently increased friction between Bucharest and its Pact allies. This friction is one reason for Romania's interest in sharply expanded contacts with the West [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] the Soviets were "quite dissatisfied" with Romania's participation in the Pact's command post exercise in Bulgaria in March. The Soviets claim that Romanian staff elements did not perform well in an exercise scenario that has been around for 15 years. Moscow reportedly believes that their poor showing was the result of Bucharest's decision to have Romanian officers study at their own military academy instead of sending them to Soviet senior service schools.

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The chill in relations has spilled over into the V-E Day celebrations. Bucharest half-heartedly invited Soviet Defense Minister Ustinov to attend the ceremonies, letting it be known that a deputy minister would be well received if Grechko could not come. When Moscow notified Bucharest that it intended to send merely a major general and several colonels, the Romanians "angrily" responded by designating Lieutenant General Cupsa, chief of the air defense forces within the territorial defense command, to head their delegation to the Kremlin.

Romanian Defense Minister Ionița had hoped to visit Moscow in April or May, but despite Romanian hints, the Soviets have not issued him an invitation. The Poles, Czechs, and East Germans have also handed protocol slights to the Romanians. Defense ministries of the three countries have visited Romania in recent years, but have not invited Ionița to pay a return visit. [REDACTED]

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Soviet Commercial Visitor
Highlights During April

The number of Soviet commercial visitors to the United States during April was about 100, a figure slightly smaller than that for March but about 20 percent higher than for April 1974. April's visits reflected a continued Soviet interest in US automotive, computer, petroleum, and metallurgical technology, as well as a desire to push ahead on bilateral agreements in such fields as shipping and publishing. Here are a few of the more interesting delegations:

- The G. K. Hall Co. held talks on joint publishing projects with representatives of the Institute of Scientific and Technical Information, some of whose publications Hall is translating and distributing.
- Specialists in computer sciences and management problems from several USSR organizations visited the Association of International Trade Centers and the Honeywell Company, a manufacturer of computers for industry, to study US information and management systems.
- Automobile transport administrators and technical specialists arrived at Kaiser Industries for a discussion of technologies for adapting motor vehicles to the use of new types of fuels, such as liquefied natural gas.
- The International Association for the Protection of Industrial Property, meeting in San Francisco, played host to two Soviet experts on copyrights and patents.

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--Several officials of Sovinflot, the Soviet shipping agency, met with US liner companies to discuss shipping service between Gulf of Mexico and Black Sea ports.

--The US-USSR Trade and Economic Council sponsored the visit of a party led by Dzherman Gvishiani of the State Committee for Science and Technology to several US firms that are members of the council.

Among the Soviet bureaucrats who met with American officials were: Nikolay Rudenko, a deputy chief of the party central committee's agriculture department (calling himself a consultant to the Minister of Agriculture); Yuriy Pisarev, a deputy minister of machine building for animal husbandry and fodder production; and Nikolay Lebedinskiy, the state planning committee's computer specialist.

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